



With the help of several new programs, initiatives and staff members in 2016, NVTC continued to make its mark as the voice of transit in Northern Virginia. This past year was one of growth for NVTC, as we focused on making certain that Northern Virginians have a variety of safe, reliable transit options. Here are some highlights:

- NVTC kicked off its [Transform 66 Multimodal Project](#), a competitive grant program designed to move more people more reliably through the I-66 corridor. In May, the Commission awarded \$9.8 million to 10 projects, which will be operational by July 2017.
- The Commission, noting that transit is vital to the success of the planned I-395 HOT lanes, [passed a resolution in March](#) calling for an annual transit payment to support multimodal improvements along this busy corridor. The Commonwealth has since agreed to allocate \$15 million annually to transit in the I-95/I-395 corridor.
- NVTC responded quickly – coordinating with jurisdictions and emergency personnel – to WMATA’s SafeTrack maintenance effort, allowing local transit providers to rapidly deploy alternatives to Metrorail. This effort will continue into the new year.
- NVTC beefed up its emergency planning efforts, developing 18 station-specific plans to ensure the safe evacuation of Virginia’s Metrorail stations in an emergency. The remaining seven will be completed in 2017.
- The Commission, in July, endorsed the results of NVTC’s [Envision Route 7 study](#). Bus rapid transit emerged as the preferred mode for an 11-mile route between Spring Hill Metrorail Station in Tysons and Mark Center in Alexandria, with a connection to the East Falls Church Metrorail Station.
- NVTC elevated our online presence in 2016. Through both [Twitter](#) (@NoVaTransit) and [Facebook](#), NVTC can more effectively share information with the public and stay abreast of projects and activities in its jurisdictions.

None of this would have been possible without our valuable staff members, who are dedicated to NVTC’s mission and vision. Also key to NVTC’s effectiveness are our Commissioners, who bring their knowledge and expertise to the table and work to find common ground on the issues that come before us each month.

I know that 2017 will bring many challenges and opportunities but feel confident that NVTC has the people, skills and resources to continue its vital work and achieve its mission.

~ *Kate Mattice*
Executive Director

Inside this Issue

Transform 66 Multimodal Update	2
Transit Service Planning Tool Creation	2
WMATA SafeTrack News	3
Fare Box Update	3
NVTC/PRTC Legislative Briefing	4
Regional Bus Agenda Analysis to Begin	4
VA WMATA Board Members Forum	5
Around Town Headlines	5
VRE Update	6
WMATA Update	6
TPB Update	6
Alliance/DCRA Merger	6



Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 620



Arlington, VA 22201
info@nvtc.org



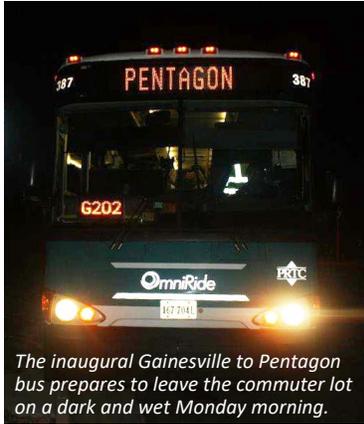
www.novatransit.org

Key Dates

Jan. 5	NVTC Monthly Meeting
Jan. 11	General Assembly Convenes
Jan. 12	NVTA Monthly Meeting
Jan. 17-18	CTB Monthly Meeting
Jan. 23	VTA Day at General Assembly
Jan. 25	VA WMATA Board Member Forum in Reston
Jan. 27	VRE Monthly Meeting
Jan. 30	VA WMATA Board Member Forum in Alexandria
Feb. 2	NVTC Monthly Meeting in Richmond, 4-6 p.m.
Feb. 7	Crossover at General Assembly
Feb. 25	General Assembly Adjourns
Apr. 5	General Assembly Reconvenes

Transform 66 January Update

PRTC's OmniRide is the first grant recipient under the Transform 66 Multimodal Project to implement new bus service. Its [Gainesville to Pentagon commuter bus route](#), which originates at the Limestone Commuter lot, became operational on Dec. 12. PRTC offered free rides



The inaugural Gainesville to Pentagon bus prepares to leave the commuter lot on a dark and wet Monday morning.

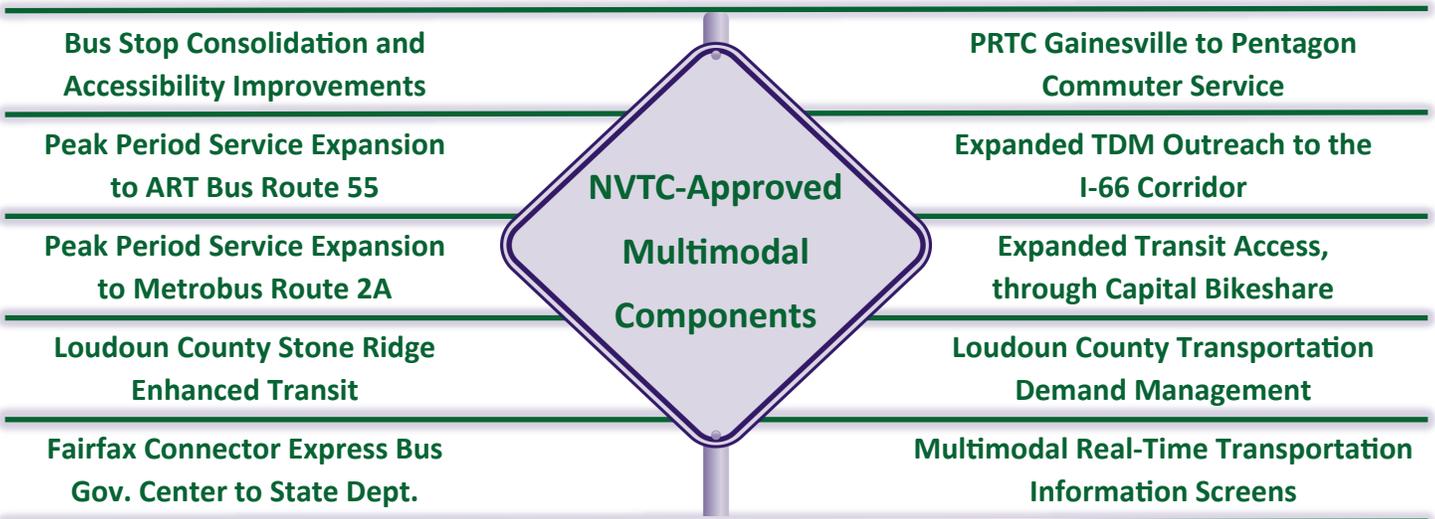
on opening day and carried 170 passengers. Ridership grew to 181 the next day. PRTC's Planning Department, which projected 186 daily riders for December 2016, expects average daily ridership to exceed 270 in 2017. The Gainesville to Pentagon service currently provides four morning and four evening trips.

NVTC shared [progress on its Multimodal Project](#) with the public during two VDOT public hearings in early December. The hearings — one in Arlington and one in

Falls Church — focused on the [widening of I-66 eastbound](#) from the Dulles Connector Road to Fairfax Drive.

Modifications to the Transform 66 Multimodal Memorandum of Agreement [received unanimous approval from the Commonwealth Transportation Board](#) on Dec. 7. The changes, which were approved by the Commission in September, remove references to the use of tolls for widening the facility, modifies language to enhance credit-worthiness of the toll revenues, clarifies the use of funds for transit operations, and addresses technical corrections.

Eight of the 10 Standard Component Agreements, which authorize funding and stipulate obligations under Transform 66 Multimodal, have been signed. The remaining agreements are awaiting jurisdictional review, approval by jurisdictional boards, or final execution.



NVTC's Transform 66 website is updated regularly. Visit www.novatransit.org/i66multimodal to learn more.

NVTC Designing Transit Service Planning Tool

To assist the City of Fairfax with bus service planning, NVTC is developing a geographic information system-based tool that will serve as a prototype. This tool will allow the city to respond to changes in service, such as WMATA's proposed cuts to Metrobus routes, and create state-mandated transit development plans.

Utilizing in-house expertise to develop the tool, NVTC is now working with the city to validate land-use and employment data. The new planning tool is modeled on software developed at the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of Florida.

WMATA Takes a SafeTrack Break, Prepares for Holidays & Inauguration

Track work on Metro's Orange and Silver lines wrapped up on Dec. 20, a day earlier than planned. Metro has delayed any further 24/7 work zones until at least February as the agency addresses a series of other issues in tunnels. The break in SafeTrack surges gives the transit agency time to plan for the Jan. 20 Presidential Inaugural, when it plans to open early, at 4 a.m., and provide near rush-hour service levels on all lines until 9 p.m.

Of WMATA's planned 15 surges, 11 have been completed. Three of the remaining four are in Virginia. Surge dates will be released in January.

[Metro recently announced extended holiday hours.](#)

On Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Christmas Day Observed (Monday, Dec. 26), the Metrorail system will

open at 7 a.m. and close at midnight each day. Off-peak fares will be in effect all day, and parking will be free at all Metro-operated facilities. Metrobus will operate on a Saturday schedule on December 24 and on a Sunday schedule on December 25 and 26.

On New Year's Eve, the Metrorail system will open at 7 a.m. with special extended service on all lines until 3 a.m. The additional three hours of service – consistent with past years – is a special exception to the moratorium on extended hours during the year-long SafeTrack maintenance program. [Rides on Metrorail and Metrobus will be free of charge](#) from midnight New Year's Eve until Metro closes at 3 a.m. Jan 1, 2017. MillerCoors is underwriting the free rides, paying WMATA \$81,965 upfront.

2017 SafeTrack Surges (Dates To Be Determined)

Stations Affected	Lines Affected	Service Status
Braddock Road-Van Dorn St/Huntington	YL BL	Single tracking, weekend shutdowns
Rosslyn-Pentagon	BL	Line segment shutdown
Braddock Road-Van Dorn St/Huntington	YL BL	Single tracking, weekend shutdowns
Greenbelt-College Park	GL	Single tracking, weekend shutdowns

Fare Box Update

Driver Control Unit (DCU) Status

WMATA has reached agreement with Cubic to develop a software and hardware solution to address the immediate need for functional fare boxes. NVTC is coordinating with WMATA and its jurisdictions to ensure that the solutions meet local bus systems' needs. After



taking part in a design review meeting with Cubic and WMATA in early December, NVTC shared project details with jurisdictional representatives, who responded with questions and suggestions.

WMATA will perform initial testing in late 2017, and Fairfax and Loudoun counties have asked to participate. In addition to providing technical analysis to its regional partners, NVTC is providing budgetary guidance and exploring options for joint procurement.

Off-board Fare Payment Status

NVTC continues to coordinate with the City of Alexandria and both Arlington and Fairfax counties to identify solutions and a path forward for implementing off-board fare payment on priority transit corridors. Off-board fare payment would be used on local systems, including the existing Metroway and future Route 1 bus rapid transit systems.

NVTC & PRTC Share Legislative Agendas

Nearly 100 people attended the second annual NVTC/PRTC Legislative Briefing on Monday, taking away key insights into upcoming transit issues of critical importance to Northern Virginia. Deputy Transportation Secretary Nick Donohue provided an overview of the past year's successes and DRPT Director Jennifer

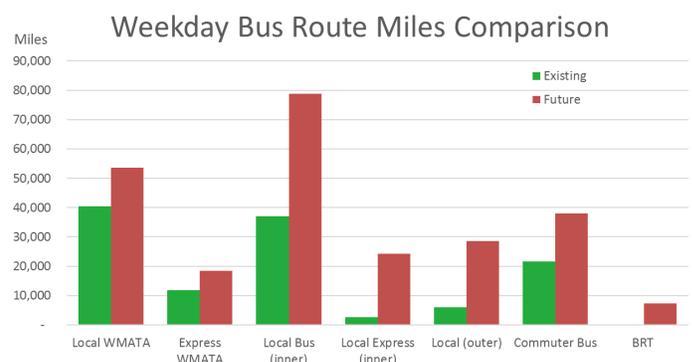
Mitchell addressed some of the challenges, particularly in regard to WMATA and state funding for transit, that lie ahead. WMATA GM Paul Wiedefeld and VRE CEO Doug Allen offered updates on their rail service and Betty Dean, from the Prince William Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the importance of bus to the region.



Bus Demand to Grow throughout Northern Virginia

A preliminary look at future bus service in Northern Virginia shows growth of 25 percent, with bus rapid transit (BRT) leading the way. In preparing to undertake its regional bus analysis in 2017, NVTC staff looked at transit improvements contained in the region's Constrained Long Range Plan. An additional 7,200 revenue miles of daily weekday BRT service is planned, with much of it along Route 1 south of the City of Alexandria. While NVTC's inner jurisdictions will experience growth in premium bus service, the outer jurisdictions will see demand rise for local bus service,

particularly when the last six Silver Line Metrorail stations open in 2020.



Virginia WMATA Board Members to Explore “Tough Choices” with Public

Join Virginia’s WMATA Board Members for a Discussion of the Challenges & Opportunities in Getting Metro Back on Track

The sessions, which are sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, are open to the public and accessible via Metrorail

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 7 p.m.
Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce
1886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230
Reston, Virginia

Monday, January 30, 2017 at 7 p.m.
Durant Arts Center
1605 Cameron Street
Alexandria, Virginia

WMATA has put forward a number of “tough choices” in order to balance its budget — everything from increasing fares to eliminating bus routes to reducing train frequency. Hear from Virginia’s WMATA Board Members at these two forums about the decisions they face in representing the needs of the Commonwealth and its residents.

Around Town: Headlines about NVTC Jurisdictions & Partners



[Alexandria's Cameron and Prince streets to become "enhanced bicycle corridors"](#)

[Arlington offers qualified support of I-395 HOT lanes](#)

[How new technologies might complement Arlington’s transportation options](#)



[Rosslyn’s Central Place has a new tunnel just for buses](#)

[Adopt an ART bus stop](#)

[Arlington to buy Springfield site for bus heavy maintenance facility](#)



[Fairfax County officials break ground on new Herndon station parking garage](#)



[Loudoun developer wants to build residential now at Silver Line project. Here's why it can't.](#)

[FTA releases WMATA traction power electrification system report and issues special directive](#)



[Metro hires former Va. congressman to help in push for more federal dollars](#)

[See which Metro stations had the biggest ridership drops, gains in 10 years](#)

[Why Metrobus matters for a region full of bus systems](#)

Virginia Railway Express



A day after touring construction of the Silver Line Phase 2, U.S. Senator Tim Kaine joined officials from VRE, DRPT, NVTC and PRTC for a ride along VRE's Fredericksburg Line and a tour of its Spotsylvania Station.

The senator's top priorities for next year include "transportation and infrastructure projects that will help create jobs and reduce traffic congestion in Virginia," according to his office. The visit gave VRE an opportunity to share its capital funding needs with Kaine and to discuss improvements needed to the Long Bridge, which crosses the Potomac between Arlington and the District of Columbia. There are some funds designated to rebuild the bridge in the \$165 million federal grant to Virginia's Atlantic Gateway Project.



Transportation Planning Board



A new tool to support environmental justice analysis identifies areas with higher concentrations of low-income and minority individuals. Transportation Planning Board staff presented the methodology at the [TPB's Dec. 21 meeting](#). Under federal law, the TPB must demonstrate that the region's major transportation investments will not have disproportionate negative impacts on vulnerable groups. The board will consider the proposed map of "Communities of Concern" at its meeting in January.

As 2016 comes to a close, [TPB is sharing its most popular and favorite articles](#), including one from TPB Chair Tim Lovain, who also serves as a NVTC Commissioner.



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority



A consortium of wireless carriers (AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless) in November [launched commercial wireless service in the first underground subway tunnel segments](#) on Metro's Blue, Orange and Silver lines between Potomac Avenue and the Stadium Armory tunnel portal. The segments run 1.1 miles in each direction. "Riders have told us they want the ability to maintain wireless communication at all times while riding Metro, and this project is responsive to their needs," said WMATA GM Paul Wiedefeld. Wireless service is also provided in all 50 underground Metrorail stations.

Marking his first year on the job, Wiedefeld laid out steps on Nov. 30 to get trains running safely and reliably. His [Back-2-Good plan](#) includes a



train reliability program that cuts rail car delays by first retiring the oldest (1000-series) and least reliable (4000-series) cars in the fleet by the end of 2017. Metro's success in ramping up new railcar deliveries in 2016 means the agency can convert all eight-car trains to new 7000 series railcars next year.

Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance



Declaring "mission accomplished," the Dulles Corridor Rail Association (DCRA) has announced its intention to merge with the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance. The merger will become official at [a Jan. 4 event](#) honoring the founding members of DCRA.



DCRA, which was DCRA was formed in response to increased congestion in the Dulles corridor resulting from commercial and residential growth, served as a voice for those who view rail as an essential component of an integrated development program for the corridor.

[The Alliance is a business-citizen coalition](#) focused on championing highway and transit projects of greatest regional significance.